

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re United States Patent Application of:)	Docket No.:	4121-174
)		
Applicants:)	Conf. No.:	9251
)		
Application No.:)	Art Unit:	4155
)		
371 Completion Date:)	Examiner:	James J. Buckle
)		
Title:)	Customer No.:	
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CERTIFICATE OF EFS FILING

I hereby certify that this document is being filed via EFS in the United States Patent and
Trademark Office on **April 30, 2009**.

/kelly k. reynolds/

**STATEMENT ON EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE IN
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. 10/520,038**

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

The above-listed application has been allowed, as indicated in the Notice of Allowance issued February 9, 2009. In the Reasons for Allowance page included with the Notice of Allowance, the examiner included the following paragraph 1:

“1. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-14 are allowed because the claims in the application are deemed to be directed to a non-obvious improvement over the invention patented in DE20203311. The claims comprise a connecting element which has a first flank near the first side that has a constant inclination that moves away from the centerline throughout a first and second section of the connecting element and a second flank located opposite the first flank and moves away from the centerline in the first section and toward the centerline in the first section.”

It is noted that the last portion of that statement contains an error. The description of the second flank in that paragraph should read "...moves away from the centerline in the first section and toward the centerline in the ~~first~~ second section."

This aspect of the second flank is recited in independent claim 1, from which claims 2-10 and 14 depend, directly or indirectly, as submitted in the Response mailed November 18, 2008 "...the cross section of the connecting element is widened from the root region of the connecting element throughout the first section, and in the second section the inclination of the first flank points from the center line outwards and the inclination of the second flank points to the center line..."

Similarly, independent claim 11, from which claims 12 and 13 depend, as submitted in the Response mailed November 18, 2008 recites "...the cross section of the connecting element is widened from the root region of the connecting element throughout the first section...and wherein in the second section, the distance from the center line to the first flank gradually increases at a constant angle while the distance from the centerline to the second flank gradually decreases on an arcuating incline."

Additionally this aspect of the second flank is apparent from the figures, specifically, Figs. 1 and 2 and as described in detail in the Response mailed November 18, 2008.

The present submission is made as a comment on the examiner's Reasons for Allowance. The claims, as pending and allowed, do not require any amendment. Accordingly, no amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.312 is being submitted. No amendments to the specification or claims are being requested.

No fees are believed to be due for the filing of this paper. However, should any fees be required or an overpayment of fees made, please debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 08-3284, as necessary. If any issues require further resolution, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (919) 419-9350 to discuss same.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2009

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The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees properly payable for this document to Deposit Account No. 08-3284